

LEAF BLOWER BEST PRACTICES

Before using leaf blowers, read the instruction manual provided by the manufacturer. Many manufacturers have them available on their websites. You need to know how the leaf blower works and how to use it properly before you start a job. The following are general rules:

- Pay attention when using a leaf blower. Don't point an operating blower in the direction of people or pets.
- Make sure bystanders, including other operators, are at least 50 feet away. Stop blowing if you are approached.
- Do not use a blower indoors or in poorly ventilated areas.
- Inspect the blower before and during use to make sure controls, parts and safety devices are not damaged and are working properly.
- Never modify a blower in a way not authorized by the manufacturer.
- Work carefully. You need to be safe, courteous and responsible.

TOWN OF BROOKLINE - DPW
870 HAMMOND STREET
CHESTNUT HILL, MA 02467



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Town of Brookline Leaf Blower By-Laws Have Changed!



Property owners and managers, residents, businesses and hired landscapers are affected.

Please read carefully as to how the new regulations affect you and how By-law violations will be handled.

www.brooklinema.gov/dpw

WHY THE CHANGE?

Residents have been concerned about the operation of leaf blowers in the town primarily due to the noise they create during operation. The goal of these changes is to reduce noise through greater compliance, and improved enforcement.

WHAT ARE THE KEY CHANGES?

Article 8.31 Town By-Law holds that:

- Property owners/managers are **CO-RESPONSIBLE** for compliance with the By-law, and any violation by the owner or a hired landscaper whom the owner might employ
- Property owners/managers are responsible for the compliant operation of leaf blowers on not only the property they control, but on contiguous sidewalks and streets
- On land parcels of 7,500 sq ft or less in size, a maximum of two leaf blowers may be used simultaneously

SEASONAL BAN FOR GAS POWERED LEAF BLOWERS*

Dates prohibited

May 16 to Sept. 30
Jan. 1 to March 14

**Electric leaf blowers are allowed year round during the permitted hours*

Dates permitted

March 15 to May 15
Oct. 1 – Dec. 31

Hours permitted

Mon.-Fri.: 8am-8pm
Sat, Sun. and Holidays:
9am-6pm

NEW ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURE

DPW is now responsible for complaint handling and monitoring, as well as enforcement coordination with the police.

Leaf Blower violations should be reported to:

Department of Public Works
Mon-Fri. 7am-3 pm
617-879-4900

After business hours:

Brookline Police Department
617-730-2222

The DPW will contact and inform property owners/managers if a violation has been reported to have taken place on their property, as well as any hired landscaper involved.

Violations are subject to the following penalties in each calendar year:

First Offense: Written warning

Second Offense: \$50

Third Offense: \$100

Each Subsequent Offense: \$150



WHAT HAS NOT CHANGED?

Leaf Blower Machine Noise Level:

The Town By-Laws require that any portable leaf blower used in the town have a manufacturer's sticker or a DPW sticker certifying a noise level of no more than 67 dBA when measured at a distance of fifty feet, utilizing American National Standard Institute methodology.

Leaf Blowers needing a sticker can be tested at the Municipal Service Center on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the following months: October, November, December, March, April and May.

Town Exemption:

The Department of Public Works is exempt from the Article 8.31 By-Law

For further details on leaf blowers visit www.brooklinema.gov/dpw

